

Hear, O Israel Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Hear, O Israel Introduction

- Judaism has no catechism or official creed.
- For the Jewish people, Deuteronomy 6:4 comes very close.
- "Hear, O Israel: the LORD is our God, the LORD is One."

- Many Jewish martyrs have died saying these words.
- Many more who have died peacefully have done the same.

- Derek Kidner (1913 – 2008), Old Testament scholar and Warden of Tyndale House, Cambridge, concluded, *"A major part of godliness lies in dogged attentiveness to familiar truths."*

- A devout Jew will recite the *Sh'ma* four times daily:
- Twice in the morning, once in the evening, once more before going to sleep.
- That provides some background for Jesus's conversation with the scribe in Mark 12:28-29.

- Let's stand and recite the passage together in English.
- We will then go through it verse-by-verse.

Hear, O Israel Deuteronomy 6:4

- This verse might seem to rule out the Trinity.
- It actually allows for it.
- Consider *Elohim*, the word translated "God."

- Pastor Chuck Smith (1927 – 2013) explained, *"Hebrew has a singular, a dual, and a plural, which indicates three or more."*
 - *El would be the singular.*
 - *Ela the dual.*
 - *Elohim is the plural indicating three or more."*

- God = *Elohim*
- Simeon bar Yochai, 1st cent. rabbi, killed by the Romans.
- *"Come and see the mystery of the word Elohim; there are three degrees, and each degree by itself alone, and yet notwithstanding they are all one, and joined together in one, and are not divided from each other."*

- One = *Echad*. Genesis 1:5 first appearance in the Bible. Evening and morning together, "Day One."
- Genesis 2:24 "they shall become one flesh"
- Exodus 26:6 and 11 the tabernacle as "a single whole"
- Ezekiel 37:21-22 "one nation" Consider our "one nation, indivisible"

Hear, O Israel Summary

- There is only one God and this God is Israel's God.

Hear, O Israel Deuteronomy 6:5

- Heart ... soul ... might
- Jesus included the word "mind" in the passage in Mark.
- It is included in the Hebrew ideas of heart and soul.

- God desires all of our faculties to be engaged in loving him.
- Our love to him should engage our complete intellect.
- It should be emotional and passionate.
- It should be strong, embracing all of our energy.

- God is worthy of far more love than we can possibly give.
- He loves us and created us to love him in return.
- If we deny God this love, his eternal design is frustrated.
- This can only cause fierce unrest at the core of our being.

Hear, O Israel Summary

- There is only one God and this God is Israel's God.
- We should love him with the most extreme love imaginable.

Hear, O Israel Deuteronomy 6:6

- These words ... shall be on your heart.
- Honest question: How do you feel if someone says they love you, yet doesn't really listen to what you say?
- Next question: How would God complete this sentence?
- *If you really loved me you would _____ .*

- These words ... shall be on your heart.
- God connects love toward him with devotion to his word.
- The rest of the passage only elaborates on this.
- Think about that.

Hear, O Israel Summary

- There is only one God and this God is Israel's God.
- We should love him with the most extreme love imaginable.
- That love will cause devotion to his word to grow within us.

Hear, O Israel Deuteronomy 6:7

- You shall teach them diligently to your children.
- The hearts and minds of children are very pliable.
- God wants us to impress his word upon them at an early age.
- If we neglect teaching the Bible to our children, then we are teaching them that the Bible is unimportant.

- And shall talk of them ...
- The Bible should be a continuous topic of our conversation.

- In Matthew 12:34, Jesus said,
- "... out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks."
- We love to talk about our passions.
- Children naturally speak about their toys or friends at school, sports fans about their team, craftsmen about their work.

- What if our hearts were abundantly filled with the word of God?

Hear, O Israel Summary

- There is only one God and this God is Israel's God.
- We should love him with the most extreme love imaginable.
- That love will cause devotion to his word to grow within us.
- We will then naturally want to teach the Bible to our children and make it a constant topic of our conversation.

Hear, O Israel Deuteronomy 6:8

- Religious Jews take this quite literally, wearing *tefillin*, or "phylacteries"

- You shall bind them ... on your hand ... between your eyes.
- With or without *tefillin*, our hands must become instruments of righteousness.
- They should reveal God's character and work.
- Diligence, self-control, honesty, wisdom, usefulness, generosity and kindness should characterize our work.

- You shall bind them ... on your hand ... between your eyes.
- Our thoughts and what we take in through our eyes should be consistent with God's Word.
- We need to develop "a mind that thinks like the Bible."
- This would be "the mind of Christ." (1 Corinthians 2:16)

Hear, O Israel Summary

- There is only one God and this God is Israel's God.
- We should love him with the most extreme love imaginable.
- That love will cause devotion to his word to grow within us.
- We will then naturally want to teach the Bible to our children and make it a constant topic of our conversation.
- Love for God and his word will direct our thoughts and deeds.

Hear, O Israel Deuteronomy 6:9

- Again, taking it literally, a *mezuzah* on a doorpost
- With or without a *mezuzah*,
- All of our domestic matters should come under the authority of God's word.
- This includes conversation, activity and priorities.
- Our homes should be places where the love of God is obvious from the moment a person walks in.
- If people spend time in your home, what is the main thing they experience?

Hear, O Israel Summary

- There is only one God and this God is Israel's God.
- We should love him with the most extreme love imaginable.
- That love will cause devotion to his word to grow within us.
- We will then naturally want to teach the Bible to our children and make it a constant topic of our conversation.
- Love for God and his word will direct our thoughts and deeds.
- That same love for God and his word will be obvious within our homes.
- Let's stand and recite the passage again together.
- And from this day forward let's apply ourselves with "*dogged attentiveness*" to these truths.
- Hear, O Israel!